

A Scandal in a "High-Class" Home

Comments on Suicide of CIA Job Applicant

The following is a translation of a brief article entitled "A Scandal in a 'High-Class' Home" published in Rabochaya Gazeta, 13 June 1966, which commented on the suicide of Col James CHRISTIANSEN, who had reportedly been interviewed for a job with CIA.

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The US Central Intelligence Agency has once again been the subject of discussion in the US press. In this case, the widow and daughter of a certain colonel have filed a suit in the city of Norfolk against the CIA, claiming that CIA employees had given the colonel narcotics which led to his suicide.

According to the charges, the colonel had been persuaded to take narcotics, not because it was intended to obtain some "secret" information from him. On the contrary, the taking of narcotics was part of a regular procedure in testing the colonel's fitness for work in the CIA.

James Christiansen -- that was the colonel's name -- applied for a job with CIA after his retirement from the Marines. Soon thereafter, he was invited for an interview, during which he was given narcotics to find out how he would react to them.

After his return from the CIA, his wife and daughter noticed changes in the colonel's behavior. He had hallucinations and refused to eat, claiming that the food was poisoned. Several days later,

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James Christiansen drove up to the house of a friend, General Thomas Griffin, sat down on the front lawn, and shot himself.

This is the kind of scandal that happened in a "high-class" home -- the US Central Intelligence Agency!